



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY & FINANCING

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John W. Hickenlooper, Governor • Susan E. Birch MBA, BSN, RN, Executive Director

TO: All Stakeholders

FROM: Emily Blanford, Assistant Director – Administrative Services

DATE: September 17, 2014

SUBJECT: COMMUNICATION BRIEF
New Dates for Community Engagement Meetings – Strategic Plan to Eliminate the Waiting List

Purpose

To inform all stakeholders regarding upcoming meetings to discuss a draft strategic plan to assure timely access to services provided through the following programs: Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (HCBS-DD), Supported Living Services (HCBS-SLS), and Children's Extensive Support (HCBS-CES), State funded Supported Living Services and the Family Support Services Program (FSSP).

This communication brief is rescinding the briefs previously distributed on August 28, 2014 and September 3, 2014 announcing the community engagement meeting dates. New dates have been established for these community engagement meetings.

Background:

During the 2014 Legislative Session, House Bill 14-1051, was passed and signed by the Governor. This bill requires the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (the Department) to develop, in consultation with intellectual and developmental disability system stakeholders, a comprehensive strategic plan to provide eligible persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities access the services and supports listed above. This strategic plan must include specific recommendations for assuring that all individuals eligible and in need of services are provided services timely by July 1, 2020. The recommendations must also include administrative procedures and identification of adequate funding in order to meet this goal.

As a part of developing the strategic plan, the Department is required to review the statutory definition of "waiting list" as set forth in section 25.5-10-202 of the Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) and make recommendations concerning amendments to the definition.

The Department will complete an initial draft of the strategic plan and will distribute to stakeholders for review and feedback. A series of meetings throughout the state will be held to answer questions and gather feedback from all interested stakeholders.

The Department will send a separate communication on September 24, 2014, distributing a draft of the strategic plan in advance of the first stakeholder meeting to allow sufficient time for review.

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The legislation charges the Department with engaging people and families receiving services, as well as people and families waiting for enrollment into services and supports. In addition to these groups listed in statute, the Department welcomes input from providers, CCBs, advocates, as well as other interested stakeholders.

Procedure or Information:

The Department would like to thank everyone for their interest in and commitment to developing a strategic plan to eliminate the waiting lists. On August 28, 2014 and September 3, 2014 the Department announced the schedule for four in-person stakeholder meetings to discuss a draft of the strategic plan. Due to feedback received, the Department is rescheduling these meetings for a later date. Moving these meetings to a later date will provide adequate time to assure everyone can fully and effectively participate and have sufficient time to review the draft of the strategic plan, to be distributed September 24, 2014. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience the change in dates may cause.

The new meeting dates and locations are as follows:

Date and Time	Time	Meeting Location
October 6, 2014	1:00 – 3:00 pm	Pueblo: Pueblo Community College, College Center (Student Center), 900 W. Orman Avenue, 81004
October 9, 2014	1:00 – 3:00 pm	Denver: KRMA-TV, 1089 Bannock Street, 80204
October 10, 2014	1:00 – 3:00 pm	Fort Collins: Larimer County Department of Human Services, 2573 Midpoint Drive, 80525
October 13, 2014	1:00 – 3:00 pm	Grand Junction: Grand Junction Regional Center, 2800 Riverside Parkway, Blue Mesa Conference Room, 81501

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Sarah McDonnell at sarah.mcdonnell@state.co.us or 303-866-5144.

Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request for persons with disabilities. Please notify Sarah McDonnell at least one week prior to a meeting if you need accommodations in order to participate.

If you are unable to attend these in-person meetings, a conference call will be scheduled in mid-October to provide an additional opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. A separate communication will be sent once the date for the teleconference is confirmed. In addition, if you are unable to attend and would like to schedule a time to provide feedback directly to the Department, please contact Sarah McDonnell.

Attachments:

Copy of HB 14-1051

Contact Person:

Emily Blanford, Assistant Director

Contact Information:

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